

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 remain pending in the application, claims 9 and 17 being canceled herein.

Allowable Claims 2-9, 11 and 13-17

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-9, 11 and 13-17 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9 and 17 are amended into their respective independent claims, and subsequently canceled herein. Claims 2-8, 11 and 13-16 are amended herein to be in independent form.

Claims 1, 10 and 12 in view of Pipitone

In the Office Action, claims 1, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,969,592 to Pipitone et al. ("Pipitone").

Independent claim 1 is amended herein to include the subject matter of ALLOWABLE dependent claim 9 (with claim 9 being canceled). It is respectfully believed that the Examiner would agree that claim 1 is now allowable for all the reasons that claim 9 was allowable.

Independent claims 10 and 12 are both amended herein to include the subject matter of ALLOWABLE dependent claim 17 (with claims 10 and 12 being subsequently canceled). It is respectfully believed that the Examiner would agree that claims 10 and 12 are now allowable for all the reasons that claim 17 was allowable.

Claims 1, 10 and 12 reciting **allowable** subject matter, it is respectfully requested that the rejection now be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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